

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01676 151219Z

44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

EUR-12 IO-11 ACDA-10 OMB-01 EB-07 /108 W  
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R 1510005Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8823

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

UNCLAS TAIPEI 1676

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW, US, CH

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT FORD'S REMARKS ON US/ROC RELATIONS

REF: STATE 062040

1. ALL MARCH 14 LOCAL NEWSPAPERS CARRIED THE FOLLOWING  
CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY ACCOUNT, DATELINED MARCH 12, WASHINGTON,  
OF PRESIDENT FORD'S REMARKS CONCERNING US/ROC RELATIONS  
BEFORE THE CHICAGO COUNCIL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS.

2. QUOTE: PRESIDENT FORD TODAY STRESSED THAT PRESENT  
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES  
ARE GOOD.

3. "PRESIDENT FORD POINTEDLY NOTED THAT THE U.S. HAS  
A DEFENSE TREATY WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

4. "THE U.S. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFERED HIS ASSESSMENT OF  
RESPONSE TO A QUESTION CONCERNING HIS ADMINISTRATION'S  
CURRENT POLICY TOWARD BOTH TAIPEI AND PEIPING. THE  
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LOCALITY WAS THE CHICAGO COUNCIL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS BEFORE WHICH HE DELIVERED A FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH THIS AFTERNOON.

5. "IN HIS RESPONSE TO BILATERAL ROC-U.S. RELATIONS, PRESIDENT FORD ALSO NOTED THAT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA 'HAD AN AMAZING REBOUND IN THEIR ECONOMY,' ADDING THAT 'THEY ARE NO LONGER DEPENDENT ON US FOR ECONOMIC OR MILITARY ASSISTANCE.'

6. "SUMMING UP THE RELATIONSHIP, PRESIDENT FORD SAID, 'THE RELATIONSHIP, WE HOPE, CAN CONTINUE TO BE A BENEFICIAL ONE.' HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT AS WASHINGTON MOVES TOWARD 'NORMALIZATION' OF RELATIONS WITH PEIPING, 'WE (THE U.S.) CAN MAINTAIN A PROPER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHINESE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT.' PRESIDENT FORD EMPHASIZED THAT TO MAINTAIN SUCH A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS 'IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES.'

7. "AS FOR WASHINGTON'S FUTURE DEALINGS WITH TAIPEI, FORD DECLINED TO SPELL OUT WHAT FORMULA IT WILL TAKE. ON THIS POINT, FORD SAID, 'IT IS DIFFICULT TO WRITE A PRESCRIPTION IN CHICAGO. BUT I THINK IT IS POSSIBLE, AND I THINK IT IS IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST.'

8. "PRESIDENT FORD'S POLICY STATEMENT TODAY ON THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE AND AFFIRMATIVE ONE SINCE HIS VISIT TO RED CHINA LAST DECEMBER. COMING AS IT DOES IN AN ELECTION YEAR, IN THE HEAT OF PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTIONS, FORD'S REMARKS ON THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ARE CONSIDERED SIGNIFICANT. PRESIDENT FORD'S LAST IMPORTANT STATEMENT ON U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE ROC WAS IN APRIL, 1975, SHORTLY AFTER THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT CHIANG KAI-SHEK. THEN, FORD SAID THAT THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ROC 'IS VERY, VERY IMPORTANT TO US.' UNQUOTE UNGER

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

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HONG KONG  
PEKING  
TOKYO  
**Type:** TE  
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